

Serial No.: 10/686,827

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 7 as follows:

--As illustrated in ~~Figure 3~~ Figure 5, LIM 310 includes an SS7 MTP level 1 & 2 function 322, a message discrimination function 324, a routing function 326 and a message distribution function 328. MTP level 1 and 2 function 322 provides the facilities necessary to send and receive digital data over a particular physical medium, as well as to provide error detection, error correction and sequenced delivery of SS7 messages. Message discrimination function 324 receives signaling messages from the lower processing layers and performs a discrimination function that determines whether an incoming SS7 message requires internal processing or is simply to be through switched. In one exemplary implementation, discrimination function 324 may perform an arbitrage pre-screening function to identify messages as candidates for arbitrage processing. For example, discrimination function 324 may examine the SI and ISUP message type parameters to identify ISUP IAM messages as candidates for arbitrage processing. In an alternate implementation, discrimination function 324 may determine whether a signaling message is a candidate for arbitrage processing based on the signaling link or signaling linkset on which the message is received. The remaining ISUP originating party and jurisdictional information parameters may be examined by discrimination function 324 and/or arbitrage detector/processor 320 to determine whether the call associated with the message is being improperly routed. Performing arbitrage prescreening on the LIMs is advantageous because such prescreening distributes arbitrage detection processing over multiple processors.--

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 2 as follows:

—Figure 8 is a message flow diagram illustrating an example of call release arbitration scenario that may be implemented by arbitration detector/processor 320. In Figure 8, network 400 includes an arbitration-detector-equipped SG node 300, similar to that illustrated in Figure 5. Network 400 also includes a switching office 402 associated with a first service provider, Service Provider A and a switching office 404 associated with a second service provider, Service Provider B. The illustrated signaling message flow includes a first ISUP IAM message 406, which is received at tandem switching office 404. ISUP message 406 includes a JIP parameter value of 919380, and a calling party number parameter value of 9194605500. In response to receiving ISUP message 406, tandem switching office 404 generates a new, related, ISUP IAM signaling message 408. Signaling message 408 is formulated by switch 404 such that the JIP and calling party number parameters are erased and set to null values. Message 408, which is intended to establish a voice circuit between office 404 and office 402, is transmitted to SG 300 for subsequent routing to office 402. However, upon receipt of message 408, SG 300 screens the message and determines that the message requires arbitration processing, detects the null [[VIP]] JIP and calling party parameters, discards the message, and sends a release message 410 indicating that the call has been released because of arbitration.—